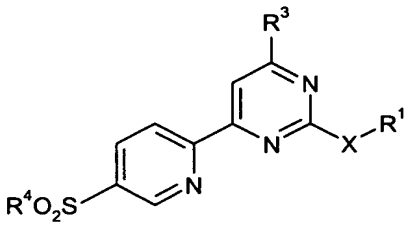
In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 15, 18 and 19. Please amend claims 2-14 and 16-17 as follows. Please add new claims 20-22.

1. (Original) A compound of formula (I)



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in which:

X is selected from the group consisting of oxygen or NR^2;

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of H, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-2}alkyl substituted by one to five fluorine atoms, C_{3-6}alkenyl, C_{3-6}alkynyl, C_{3-10}cycloalkylC_{0-6}alkyl, C_{4-12}bridged cycloalkyl, $A(CR^5R^6)_n$ and $B(CR^5R^6)_n$;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of H and C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^3 is C_{1-2}alkyl substituted by one to five fluorine atoms;

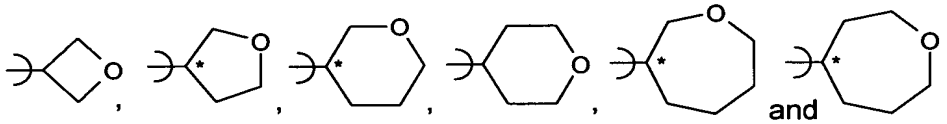
R^4 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6}alkyl, NH_2 and R^8CONH;

R^5 and R^6 are independently selected from H or C_{1-6}alkyl;

A is an unsubstituted 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl or an unsubstituted 6-membered aryl, or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl or a 6-membered aryl substituted by one or more R^7;

R^7 is selected from the group consisting of halogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkyl substituted by one more fluorine atoms, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkoxy substituted by one or more F, NH_2SO_2 and C_{1-6}alkylSO_2;

B is selected from the group consisting of



and where

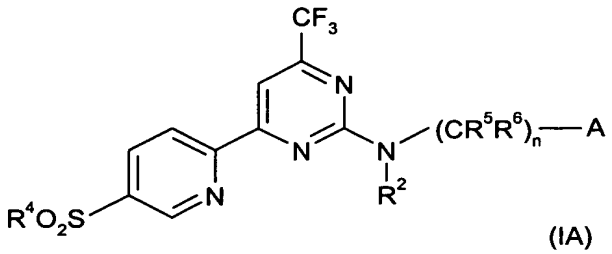
) defines the point of attachment of the ring;

R^8 is selected from the group consisting of H, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkylOC_{1-6}alkyl, phenyl, HO_2CC_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkyl$OCOC_{1-6}$alkyl,

C_{1-6}alkylOCO, H_2NC_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkylOCONHC_{1-6}alkyl and C_{1-6}alkylCONHC_{1-6}alkyl; and

n is 0 to 4.

2. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (IA)



(IA)

~~and~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt ~~salts~~ thereof in which:

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of H and C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^4 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6}alkyl, NH_2 and R^8CONH;

R^5 and R^6 are independently selected from H or C_{1-6}alkyl;

A is C_{5-7}cycloalkyl or an unsubstituted 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl or an unsubstituted 6-membered aryl, or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl or a 6-membered aryl substituted by one or more R^7;

R^7 is selected from the group consisting of halogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkyl substituted by one more fluorine atoms, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkoxy substituted by one or more F, NH_2SO_2 and C_{1-6}alkylSO_2;

R^8 is selected from the group consisting of H, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkylOC_{1-6}alkyl, phenyl, HO_2CC_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkylOCOC_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkylOCO, H_2NC_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkylOCONHC_{1-6}alkyl and C_{1-6}alkylCONHC_{1-6}alkyl; and

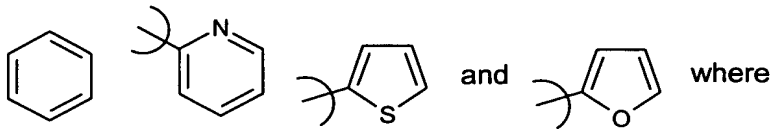
n is 0 to 4.

3. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein R^2 is H or methyl.

4. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ wherein R^4 is C_{1-3}alkyl.

5. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ wherein R^5 and R^6 are both H.

6. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~ wherein A is selected from the group consisting of C_{5-7}cycloalkyl or



) defines the point of attachment of the ring

and A is unsubstituted or substituted by one or two R^7.

7. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~ wherein R^7 is selected from the group consisting of halogen, C_{1-3}alkyl, C_{1-3}alkyl substituted by one to three fluorine atoms, and C_{1-3}alkoxy.

8. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~ wherein R^8 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6}alkyl, phenyl and aminomethyl.

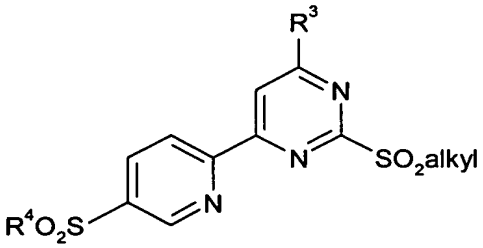
9. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 8~~ wherein n is 0 to 2.

10. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~ and as described in Examples 1 to 13.

11. (Currently Amended) [4-(5-Methanesulfonyl-pyridin-2-yl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrimidin-2-yl]-methyl-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-ylmethyl)-amine; benzyl-[4-(5-methanesulfonyl-pyridin-2-yl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrimidin-2-yl]-amine; and
cyclohexyl-[4-(5-methanesulfonyl-pyridin-2-yl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrimidin-2-yl]-amine.

12. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound ~~of formula (I)~~ as defined in claim 1, which comprises:

(A), reacting a compound R^1XH of formula (II) or a protected derivative thereof with a compound of formula (III)



(III)

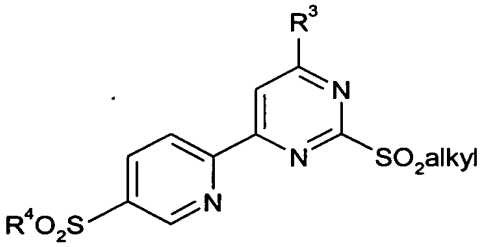
and thereafter and if necessary,

(B), interconverting a compound of formula (I) into another compound of formula (I); and/or

(C), deprotecting a protected derivative of compound of formula (I).

13. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound ~~of formula (IA)~~ as defined in claim 2, which comprises:

(A) reacting an amine $HNR^2(CR^5R^6)_nA$ of formula (IIA) or a protected derivative thereof with a compound of formula (III) wherein R^3 is CF_3



(III)

and thereafter and if necessary,

(B), interconverting a compound of formula (I) into another compound of formula (I); and/or

(C), deprotecting a protected derivative of compound of formula (I).

14. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound ~~of formula (I) or (IA)~~ as defined in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~ in admixture with one or more physiologically acceptable carriers or excipients.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a human or animal subject suffering from a condition which is mediated by COX-2 which comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound ~~of formula (I) or (IA)~~ as defined in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a human or animal subject suffering from an inflammatory disorder, which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound ~~of formula (I) or (IA)~~ as defined in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~.

18-19. (Cancelled)

20. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as defined in claim 2 in admixture with one or more physiologically acceptable carriers or excipients.

21. (New) A method of treating a human or animal subject suffering from a condition which is mediated by COX-2 which comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound as defined in claim 2.

22. (New) A method of treating a human or animal subject suffering from an inflammatory disorder, which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound as defined in claim 2.